

102 IRP#5 Emily Dickinson: Before and After

1. BEFORE: Read the poem “Wild Nights!” (951) and write 2 paragraphs explaining a) the meaning of the poem and b) your impressions of the author. [Do not read any other information on Emily Dickinson at this point.]
2. AFTER: After reading the biographical sketch of Emily Dickinson in our text (950), write a paragraph explaining how your interpretation of “Wild Nights!” and its author was affected by what you learned from this information about the author.
3. Optional bonus question: Read the entire “Emily Dickinson” section in your book (950-964), including what Dickinson herself has to say about her life and art and the views of several literary critics. Again, ask yourself the question “What do I think of ‘Wild Nights’ *now*?” In other words, how has this additional information affected both your original (‘1’ above) and modified (‘2’ above) takes on the poem?

102 IRP#6 Chapter 32—Critical Casebook: Langston Hughes

1. Read “Harlem” [also known by the title “Dream Deferred”]” (970) **before** you read any of Hughes’ other poems or his bio. Write a 1 paragraph interpretation/commentary on the poem.
2. Now read the full section on Langston Hughes (965-982), including all the poems and commentaries. Write a second paragraph in which you explain how your understanding of “Harlem/Dream Deferred” is changed by what you’ve learned.

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